

CHARLES W. McKENNEY.

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APRIL 25, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. CALDERHEAD, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 5089.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5089) granting an increase of pension to Charles W. McKenney, submit the following report:

An increase of pension from \$12 to \$30 per month is sought in this bill.

It appears from the records of the War Department that this soldier, now 75 years of age, served as a private in Company H, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry, from August 15, 1862, to August 8, 1865, when honorably discharged, and the medical records of that Department show that he was under treatment at various dates during his service for rubeola and acute diarrhea.

He is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, the result of disease of mouth, disease of both eyes, and senility.

His claim to pension under the general law, filed in August, 1903, and based upon disease of eyes, the result of an explosion of a shell near his head, was rejected in October, 1903, upon the ground that the same was not due to his military service, the claimant having himself admitted that the eye trouble did not appear until nine or ten years ago.

When last examined, on October 1, 1902, by the board of surgeons at Independence, Iowa, the surgeons found his gums tender and retracted, six lower and five upper teeth all poor, cataract in both eyes, with only sufficient vision to get about, stomach and bowels tender, hemorrhoidal vessels engorged, rectum tender, heart's action rapid and weak, dyspnoea on exertion, etc.

Proof filed with your committee shows that the beneficiary is now totally blind in both eyes and is unable to get about without the attendance of a second person, and that he has no means and nothing to live upon except his pension of \$12 per month.

E. C. Little Post, No. 54, G. A. R., of Independence, Iowa, by a resolution filed with your committee, favors and recommends the passage of the bill as an act of simple justice to a brave and true soldier, who is now blind, helpless, and needy.

The case of this soldier, who rendered three years of faithful service and is now blind and destitute, is worthy of sympathetic consideration, and an increase of his pension to the rate provided in the bill is in line with numerous precedents.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

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